

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend paragraph [0035] as follows:

[0035] FIG. 6 is a perspective view showing an inside surface of a unit strip 30' of inner strip 30 constituting the inner cells of the spacer grid 10, with the inner cell grid spring 20 provided on the unit strip 30' to establish equiangular surface contact between a fuel rod 125 and the unit strip 30' in the inner cell of the spacer grid 10. As shown in FIG. 6, the inner cell grid spring 20 of each unit strip 30' of the inner strip includes a vertical support part 21 that comprises two bridges extending from spring base parts 25 provided on the land surface of the unit strip. The two bridges of the vertical support part 21 are bent toward a fuel rod 125, and may be diverged or converged in a direction toward the central portion of the grid spring 20. The vertical support part 21 is only bent when the grid spring 20 is loaded, thus the vertical support part 21 allows the fuel rods 125 to have a desired elastic behavior. A fuel rod support part 22 is provided at the central portion of the vertical support part 21. The fuel rod support part 22 has a conformal support surface which is specifically bent to have the same radius of curvature as that of the fuel rod 125, thus being brought into equiangular or conformal surface contact with the external surface of the fuel rod 125. That is, the conformal support surface of the fuel rod support part 22 is designed to have an optimal circular or elliptical profile, so that the conformal support surface is suitable for enlarging the surface contact area of the fuel rod support part 22 relative to the fuel rod 125, in addition to accomplishing a desired uniform contact pressure distribution and reducing the peak stress of the fuel rod support part 22. When the inner cell grid spring 20 having the above-mentioned double bridge-type simple beam structure is loaded by the fuel

rod 125 to be deformed, the spring base parts 25 are initially deformed, before the fuel rod support part 22 is deformed. Therefore, the inner cell grid spring 20 minimizes the deformation of the fuel rod support part 22. In FIG. 6, the reference numeral 27 and 29 denote a mixing blade and a dimple of the unit strip 30', respectively. Figure 6 shows inner grid springs 20 on the inner strips 30', wherein the inner grid springs comprise an opening 200 formed in the inner strips and defined by top, bottom and side edges, 202, 204 and 206 respectively, two spaced inner support parts (collectively shown at 21, 21a and 21b) extending vertically in the opening 200 between the top and bottom edges 202, 204 of the opening, and an inner fuel rod support part 22 extending transversely between the two spaced inner support parts (portions 21a in FIG. 6), the inner fuel rod support part 22 being bent at at least two steps along vertical bending lines 208 and defining an equiangular support surface which is equiangular with a fuel rod supported by the inner grid spring. The vertical support part 51 (See FIG. 7A) and the two spaced inner support parts 21, 1a, 21b are different in structure.